

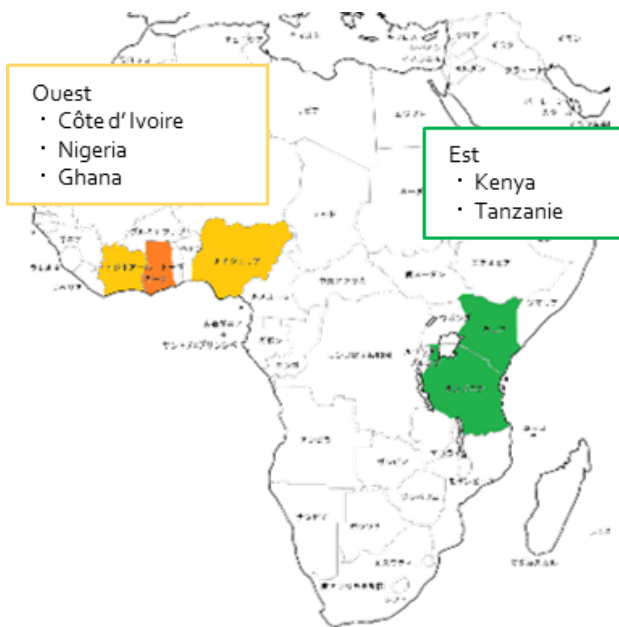
# AFICAT Newsletter (Côte d'Ivoire No. 1)

Issued on December 13, 2022 (English Version)

\*Please note that this is an English translation of the original French newsletter.

This newsletter presents the activities of the “Africa Field Innovation Center for Agricultural Technology” (AFICAT). In this first issue for Côte d'Ivoire, we introduce AFICAT and the activities conducted by the Ivorian government and Japanese companies under the coordination of the AFICAT team from July to October 2022 in Côte d'Ivoire.

## What is AFICAT?



Map depicting the five countries in West and East Africa in which AFICAT aims to operate

### 1. Background of AFICAT

AFICAT is officially the “Africa Field Innovation Center for Agricultural Technology”, whose establishment was proposed during a public-private business dialogue co-chaired by the late Shinzo Abe, former Prime Minister of Japan (at the time), and Mr. Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, the Chairperson of the African Union (at the time) (current president of Egypt) at the 7<sup>th</sup> Tokyo

International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) held in August 2019. From 2020 to 2021, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) conducted a survey on establishing and operating AFICAT in the following five countries: Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria, which have potential for rice production and collaboration between the public and private sectors by facilitating the participation of the Japanese private sector, which has advanced and excellent technologies and products. A subsequent survey since February 2022, which includes preparatory work for the AFICAT operation and pilot activities for a period of two years, has been conducted.

### 2. Basic concept

The objective of AFICAT is to improve agricultural productivity and the quality of agricultural products and to empower farmers in Africa through collaboration with the Japanese private sector, which has advanced technologies and products.

The basic concepts are as follows:

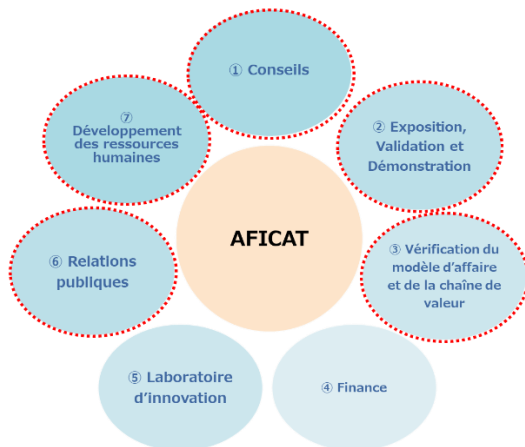
- 1) AFICAT is operated and managed based on Japan-Africa Public-Private Partnership.
- 2) Instead of building a new “center,” the necessary functions are added to the existing facilities and organizations.
- 3) AFICAT covers a wide range of agricultural machinery and materials for various agricultural products but mainly focuses on agricultural machinery for rice production and processing during the pilot activity period.

### 3. Seven functions

AFICAT will have seven functions (as shown in the below figure) directed to the existing facilities and organizations to promote agricultural mechanization by utilizing the technologies and



products of the Japanese companies that may be suitable to the local conditions of the five target countries in Africa. The pilot activity period will focus on agricultural machinery, mainly for rice cultivation, and the following five out of the seven functions will be the main focus: ① Advice; ② Exhibition, Validation, and Demonstration; ③ Verification of Business Model and Value Chain; ⑥ Public Relation; and ⑦ Human Resource Development (partially).



*Schematic representing the seven functions that AFICAT uses to support Japanese companies in bringing their products and technologies to African countries*

As stated above, pilot activities will be conducted as part of the JICA survey. Based on the experiences and lessons from the pilot activities, the AFICAT team will propose a medium- to long-term implementation policy and an activity plan for agricultural mechanization through private-sector participation.

**Activities have started in Côte d'Ivoire!**

The AFICAT team conducted its first field activities in Côte d'Ivoire from mid-to-late July 2022. To officially launch the activities in Côte d'Ivoire, the team discussed and agreed with different departments of the Ministère d'État, Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural (MEMINADER; Ministry of State, Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development), Agence pour le Développement de la Filière Riz en Côte d'Ivoire (ADERIZ; Rice Sector Development Agency) and other related organizations.

The AFICAT team was impressed by the strong commitment shown by MEMINADER and ADERIZ,

which reflects their high expectations and trust in Japanese agricultural machines as a tool for promoting agricultural mechanization of the country and thus improving farmers' livelihoods. This could also be attributed to the long-lasting relationships established in this country as a result of JICA cooperation (especially in the rice sector).

**AFICAT implementation structure in Côte d'Ivoire**



*In Côte d'Ivoire, AFICAT works with two main counterpart organizations of MEMINADER and ADERIZ. The above photos were taken during a discussion on the AFICAT implementation structure with MEMINADER (upper one) and ADERIZ (bottom one) respectively.*

The MEMINADER and ADERIZ are the two main counterpart organizations on the Ivorian government that run AFICAT in Côte d'Ivoire. On July 19, 2022, the four parties, MEMINADER, ADERIZ, JICA Côte d'Ivoire Office, and the AFICAT Team, signed the Minutes of Meeting. The parties involved in these AFICAT activities collaborate as a team to develop and implement activity plans. We, the AFICAT Team, would like to take this opportunity to appreciate MEMINADER and ADERIZ for their generous support.

**PRORIL2 introduced Yanmar machines**

*Le Project de Promotion du Riz Local Phase 2 (PRORIL2)* is a JICA-Ivorian government technical cooperation project that aims to improve the quality and quantity of rice produced in Côte d'Ivoire. The project has an office in



Yamoussoukro and targets actors along the rice value chain, from producers to millers and consumers from the surrounding areas.

PRORIL2 conducts activities such as providing service providers with operation and maintenance training on appropriate machines and providing technical guidance to millers on post-harvest technologies that could be well adapted to Côte d'Ivoire. In this way, PRORIL2 identified many Japanese agricultural machines and equipment that could contribute to improving the quality and quantity of rice production and introduced machines such as power tillers, combine harvesters, and threshers from Yanmar and laboratory equipment from Satake. AFICAT in Côte d'Ivoire will closely collaborate with PRORIL2 to convey the voices of Japanese machine users to the Ivorian agriculture sector through this series of newsletters and other media so that we can keep you interested and convinced of the advantages of using Japanese machines for agricultural mechanization.



*A machine service provider operating Yanmar power tiller, YZC-D.*

For example, PRORIL2 provided Yanmar power tillers to machine service providers in the target areas and is attempting to build machine operator capacity through a series of operations and maintenance training. After training, many operators mentioned that Yanmar power tillers have good controllability because the front and

rear balance are well designed. Other Yanmar machines introduced in PRORIL2 include combine harvesters and threshers.

On July 15, a media press tour comprising newspapers, TV, and radio stations organized by JICA visited the PRORIL2 site and observed Japanese machines and equipment introduced to PRORIL2. Mr. Oishi, a PRORIL2 mechanization expert, explained the advantages of the Japanese machine.



*A media press tour listening to an explanation of a PRORIL2 expert, Mr. Oishi (second from the left) about Yanmar's combine harvester, YH150.*

Yanmar produces a wide range of agricultural machines. For details, please check their website.

- Yanmar website: <https://www.yanmar.com/global/>

#### Satake color sorter introduced to PRORIL2

## SATAKE

Satake Corporation (Satake) is a Japanese manufacturer of machines and equipment for the food industry and food products and has expertise in rice milling and related equipment. In July 2022, the above-mentioned media press tour visited the PRORIL2 laboratory to observe a Satake product, namely, a color sorter, the FMS-2000, which was introduced to PRORIL2 activities. The following month, a session for demonstrating FMS-2000 was organized by PRORIL2, inviting government



officials and local millers.

One of the demonstration participants said that he would be able to improve the efficiency of milling work and preserve rice if he could have Satake's color sorter. This is because the color sorter can solve the problems of conventional manual sorting work, such as long labor hours or inaccuracy in excluding impurities from milled rice.



*Mr. N'Depo (second from left), PRORIL2 post-harvest officer, explained to a media press tour about the usage of FMS-2000.*

PRORIL2 plans to continue making FM-2000 available to local millers so that Ivorian millers and other stakeholders can learn that Japanese color sorting technology will be able to contribute to solving rice sorting issues in Cote d'Ivoire. PRORIL2 expects that it will attract people's attention and that an individual or group of millers will purchase the FM-2000 in the future, although the high price of the machine remains a challenge. In future issues, AFICAT will notify readers how Satake products are used effectively in the milling industry.



*Millers and agricultural machine distributors who attended the demonstration session paid close attention to Mr. N'Depo's explanation.*

Satake has a representative office in Abidjan (Satake West Africa). The contact is available at +225 0757901167 (Mr. Kasem Nameh).

- Satake website: <https://satake-group.com/>

### A Kubota combine harvester operator in Sakassou interviewed by AFICAT



Kubota Corporation (Kubota) is the largest agricultural machine manufacturer in Japan and ranks third in the world considering sales volume. On July 14, the AFICAT team observed the harvesting work of SIMAPRESS, a PRORIL2 beneficiary machine service provider in Sakassou. SIMAPRESS has two Kubota combine harvesters called DC70 (hopper-type). Mr. Couribaly, a SIMAPRES accountant, informed the AFICAT team that they had purchased two Kubota combine harvesters because Kubota machines have better harvesting performance and capacity than other countries.



*Kubota combines harvester, and DC70, working lightly and powerfully in muddy field conditions.*

The AFICAT team also interviewed a SIMAPRES operator, Mr. Kanga, about the use of DC70. From his interview below, we believe that the Kubota DC-70 is more resilient and comfortable to operate than combine harvesters from other countries.

**Q: When did you purchase two DC-70?**

**A: We purchased one about a year ago and another before that. We purchased two machines with**

loans, one of which was already repaid, while the other is being repaid currently.

Q: What are the annual operation hours of DC-70?

A: There are two harvest seasons per year; therefore, we do land preparation and harvesting work twice per year. The DC-70 we bought a year ago has worked more than 800 hours until today (it showed 847 hours when an AFICAT team member physically observed).

Q: What do you do to prevent the breakdown of the machines?

A: Before starting work, I see the machines carefully and confirm that there are no problems. To prevent engine overheating, I cleaned the air cleaner, radiator, and oil cooler using an air blow.

Q: What are the good points about DC-70?

A: It does not break. For example, belts are more resilient than the other machines that I have operated. In addition, it has good operability. I can work more comfortably.



*M. Kanga, the SIMAPRESS operator, showed us where to inspect and clean during maintenance.*

Using more resilient machines can harvest more fields, avoiding operational loss due to breakdown. This increases rice productivity. Kubota's products are purchasable at its Ivorian distributor, Lassie Industrie (Mr. Frédéric Lanes, CEO, [f.lanes@lassire.com](mailto:f.lanes@lassire.com)).

- Kubota website: <https://www.kubota.com/>

**First AFICAT event: Online seminar by Kett**



The AFICAT team returned to Abidjan in September 2022 to prepare for its first AFICAT event in Côte d'Ivoire. It was an online seminar on the importance of grain moisture measurements presented by Kett Electric Laboratory Co., Ltd. (Kett). Kett is a Japanese manufacturer of agricultural measuring instruments, such as moisture meters for grains, wood, paper, and other materials. Measuring and controlling the moisture content of rice and other crops is important for quality control. Kett's products are characterized by their ease of use and ability to accurately measure the moisture content of a wide variety of grains.

On October 4, an online seminar was held via Zoom, connecting participants from Côte d'Ivoire, including the staff of MEMINADER, ADERIZ, and private millers. Kett has provided online lectures in Japan. During the event, Kett presented some topics such as the "Importance of Grain Moisture" and "Accuracy and traceability of Grain Moisture Measurement," and introduced products, such as grain moisture testers, paddy huskers, polishers, and rice whiteness testers.

2. Prêt de biens

2-1. Modèles avec prix en septembre 2022

<p>Testeurs d'humidité du riz / Riceter (Rtg J)-312</p> <p>380 USD</p>	<p>Testeur d'humidité du grain / PM-550 (Ver.5205)</p> <p>3 800 USD</p>	<p>Testeur d'humidité du grain / PM-650 (Ver.PM-6515)</p> <p>USD 1 400</p>	<p>Décortiqueuse de riz (Auto) / TR-260</p> <p>USD 550</p>	<p>Poisseuse / Praelist (TP-3000)</p> <p>USD 670</p>	<p>Testeur de blancheur du riz / C-600</p> <p>USD 3 100 USD</p>
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Riz long et court. (Paddy, riz brun et riz blanchi)  
Le riz étuvé est également mesurable par Riceter fh ( Rth )-202.

Nombreuses céréales et graines. Paddy à brun riz. Maïs, blé.

Riz brun à riz blanchi.

blancheur mesurable à la fois de riz brun et blanchi.

Orge, soja, grains de café, grains de cacao, thé, Sésame, noix de cajou (amande), graines d'huile de palme, niébé, tef, graines végétales, etc.

✓ Rth-202 : 300 USD  
✓ PM-450 (ver. 4523) : USD770

✓ Env. 150 applications sont disponibles par unité (version) et versions sélectionnables de la série PM.  
✓ La base de données des applications (courbes d'étalonnage principales) est au total 300 environ.

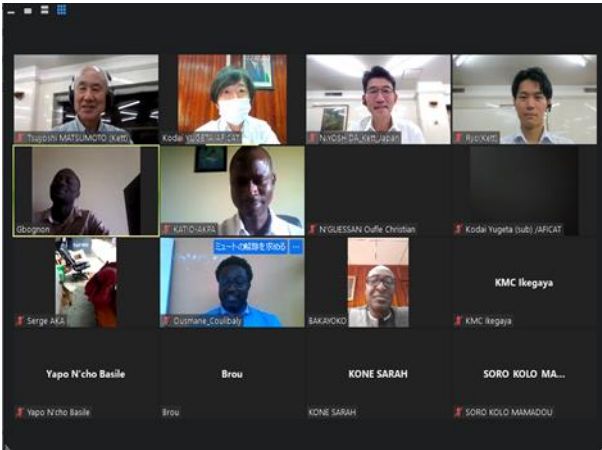
*Images of Kett's products from the seminar material, such as grain moisture testers and rice whiteness testers.*

During the seminar, there were some positive comments from the participants, such as "I am surprised at the accuracy of Kett products compared with that of the machines made in other countries" and "today's lectures should be shared with other important stakeholders like CODINORM (Côte d'Ivoire Normalisation) and LAMENA (Laboratoire National d'Essais, de Qualite, de



Metrologie et d'Analyse).”

The follow-up seminar by Kett will be conducted in December in Abidjan, offering participants an opportunity to use Kett products. The AFICAT team will continue to support Kett's activities and businesses in Côte d'Ivoire.



More than 20 Ivorian participants attended the seminar and exchanged opinions on Zoom.



PRORIL2, another JICA project, donated Kett moisture testers to some millers in Yamoussoukro and surrounding Districts, One such miller in Bouaké showed AFICAT Team the tester, Riceter f501, which he usually uses when he purchases paddy from farmers to maintain fair trade.

Kett products can be purchased at its Ivorian distributors, CI-MOTORS CORPORATION (Mr. Mamadu Camara, +225-(0)2557265, [camaeaide@yahoo.com](mailto:camaeaide@yahoo.com)).

- Kett Website: <https://www.kett.co.jp/english/>

### Editors' postscript

We hope that you enjoyed our first newsletter for Côte d'Ivoire. We are preparing the next issue that will present the future activities of AFICAT. We hope that you will continue to read our newsletters.

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